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5632

21828

7590

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EXAMINER

YOUNG, MICAH PAUL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1618

NOTIFICATION DATE

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ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Art Unit: 1618

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 9-19, drawn to a method of manufacturing microcapsules comprising first forming an emulsion that contains a polyelectrolyte solution as a disperse phase by joining the polyelectrolyte solution in a disperse phase in a dramatic way with a Continuous phase, wherein the continuous phase and the polyelectrolyte solution are both flowing through micro-channels.

Group II, claim(s) 20-27, drawn to a method of manufacturing microcapsules comprising forming an emulsion comprising a polyelectrolyte and contacting the emulsion with another polyelectrolyte solution with a reverse charge.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group I requires the polyelectrolyte emulsion to be formed in a specific manner requiring continuous laminar flow that is abruptly reduced with a continuous phase. The emulsion of Group II can be manufactured without said dramatic halt or laminar flow.

During a telephone conversation with Joseph Carrier on 9/29/09 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 9-19. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 20-27 withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

/Michael G. Hartley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1618